

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



LUIS M. PROENZA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 13, 2012

Members of the University Community

I am pleased, Dear Colleagues . . .

. . . to forward for your information a summary of actions approved by The University of Akron's Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on January 18, 2012.

Presentation to the Board

Dr. Sherman and I presented an overview of the strategic plan that will guide our collective actions through our sesquicentennial in 2020. "Vision 2020: Toward 150 Years of Distinction & A New Gold Standard of University Performance" has been in development for nearly two years, created with the contributions and engagement of more than 3,500 faculty, staff, students, Trustees, alumni, community leaders and others. It is a newly stated vision for our future, building upon "Charting the Course," the plan that enabled more than a decade of impressive achievement. The full "Vision 2020" document is available online at <http://www.uakron.edu/vision2020/>.

Finance & Administration Committee

1. Personnel Actions

The personnel transactions approved by Trustees as amended are posted online at <http://www.uakron.edu/bot/docs/personnel-reports/Personnel-transactions-January2012.pdf>.

2. Approved Purchase for more than \$350,000

- An award to Oracle, Inc. for consulting services for the three-phase implementation of the currently owned Oracle-PeopleSoft EPM (Enterprise Performance Management) and OBIEE (Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition) modules. The total estimated award for consulting costs to implement both modules is \$1,508,512.

3. Cumulative Gift and Grant Income Report for July-November 2011

For July-November 2011, giving totaled \$26.7 million, 85 percent more than the \$14.4 million received in July-November 2010 and 63 percent more than the five-year average of \$16.3 million. The number of gifts decreased from 10,038 for July-November 2010 to 10,401 for this fiscal year.

4. General Receipts Bonds Refunding Authorization

To enable the administration to quickly take advantage of qualifying refunding opportunities as they arise, the Board delegated authority to the Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO to proceed accordingly and without delay. The delegated authority will include engaging bond counsel, selecting an underwriter(s) via an RFP/bid process, use of a bank bond placement (also via bid), and advance preparation of all necessary “boilerplate” documents. Any successful refunding(s) would need approval of the President of the University and the Chair of the Board’s Finance & Administration Committee and would be reported the Board at its next meeting.

Academic Issues & Student Success Committee

1. Research Grants and Sponsored Programs Reports, July-December 2011

For July- December 2011, funding for externally funded research and other sponsored programs was \$42,412,655 for 265 projects. For July-December 2010, funding was \$18,210,615 for 223 projects. For July- December 2011, 5 new patents were issued, 10 patent applications were filed, and 26 disclosures were submitted—compared to 4, 12 and 39, respectively, for July-December 2010.

2. Academic Calendar

The Board approved the following academic calendar, as proposed by the Office of Academic Affairs and recommended by the President and Faculty Senate:

	2011-2012	2012-2013
FALL SEMESTER		
Day and Evening Classes Begin	August 22, 2011	August 27, 2012
Labor Day*	September 5	September 3
Veteran's Day Observed	November 11	November 12
Thanksgiving recess*	November 24-26	November 22-25
Classes Resume	November 28	November 26
Final Instructional Day	December 3	December 9
Final Examination Period	December 5-10	December 10-16
Commencement	December 10	December 14-15
Fall Semester Grades Due	December 13	December 18
Spring Intersession	Dec. 17, 2011-Jan. 7, 2012	Dec. 17, 2012-Jan. 13, 2013
Christmas observance	December 26-27, 2011	December 24-25, 2012
New Year's Day observance	January 2, 2012	January 1, 2013
SPRING SEMESTER		
Day and Evening Classes Begin	January 9, 2012	January 14, 2013
Martin Luther King Jr. Day*	January 16	January 21
President's Day Observance*	February 21	February 19
Spring Recess	March 12-17	March 25-31
Classes Resume	March 19	April 1

SPRING SEMESTER (continued)		
Final Instructional Day	<i>April 28</i>	May 5
Final Examination Period	<i>April 30-May 5, 2012</i>	May 6-12, 2013
Commencement	<i>May 4-6</i>	May 10-12
Spring Semester Grades Due	<i>May 8</i>	May 14
Law School Commencement	<i>May 13</i>	May 19
SUMMER SESSIONS		
Classes begin for summer intersession	May 14	May 20
Memorial Day*	May 28	May 27
Classes end for summer intersession	June 1	June 7
Classes begin for summer I and II	June 4	June 10
Independence Day*	July 4	July 4
Classes end for summer I	July 7	July 13
Classes begin for summer III	July 9	July 15
Classes end for summer II	July 28	August 3
Classes end for Summer III	August 11	August 17
Commencement	August 11, 2012	August 17, 2013
* NOTE: * - no classes held		

Strategic Issues

1. Endorsement of Vision 2020: The New Gold Standard of University Performance

The Board unanimously endorsed the new strategic plan by passing the following resolution:

Whereas, Charting the Course, the dynamic 10-year strategic plan introduced in 2000 to attain greater excellence during the ensuing decade through campus enhancement, enrollment management, revenue enhancement and diversification, focused differentiation and telling the story, enabled the University of Akron to achieve strong momentum in each of these areas over the past decade, as well as in research, community engagement and fund-raising; and

Whereas, in order to extend that momentum into a new decade, the University embarked on a two-year process of strategic thinking to produce the framework for a new strategic plan, soliciting input from more than 3,500 faculty, staff, students, alumni, community leaders and national higher education thought-leaders through workshops, open forums, online discussion boards and other venues, thus creating the foundational data for the drafting of a framework that was then revised and refined numerous times, and available to university community for comment and subsequently refined via consultation with many groups including the members of the Board of Trustees and its Strategic Issues Committee; and

Whereas, the final draft, named Vision 2020: The New Gold Standard of University Performance, clearly delineates the University’s vision, mission and goals to assure excellence and achieve distinction through the year 2020; and

Whereas, the objectives, strategies, initiatives and metrics detailed within Vision 2020, shall be re-assessed and modified as needed in anticipation of, or in response to, changing educational, technological, economic, legislative and other circumstances and conditions, thereby ensuring that this dynamic, living document accelerates progress by nimbly capitalizing on new opportunities and circumstances as they arise; and

Whereas, the institution’s leadership will provide the Board with annual updates of the plan’s execution and progress, solicit the Board’s guidance on modifications and adjustments to Vision 2020’s objectives, strategies, initiatives and metrics, and notify the Board in a timely manner to significant changes to the plan and its components; and

Whereas, in order to achieve the vision set forth in Vision 2020, the plan’s goals will be represented and reflected in Board decisions concerning annual budgets, with a commitment to the allocation of annual funds in support of the plan, and in the annual investment strategy with particular focus on fiscal integrity, excellence and quality assurance and strategic investment, particularly via multidisciplinary and vital partnership-aligned clusters of innovation; Now, Therefore,

Be It Resolved that The University of Akron’s Board of Trustees endorses the document presented today titled, Vision 2020: The New Gold Standard of University Performance; and that the annual budget proposals presented by the administration for the Board’s approval include a \$2-million annual investment pursuant to the Vision 2020 document.

2. Endorsement of Enhanced Student Trustee Involvement

In response to Ohio’s state legislature considering House Bill 377, which proposes “to grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities... voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions,” the Board approved a resolution endorsing the spirit of the bill with added language. The resolution supports the “full engagement of student trustees on board committees and in Board meetings, including attending executive sessions unless otherwise warranted” proposed by the bill with the addition of language that allows each individual board to choose how to engage its student trustees as fully and appropriately as possible. The added language acknowledges the diversity of Ohio’s state universities.

3. 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule and Submission of Meeting Materials for the Board of Trustees

The 2012-2013 meeting schedule for the Board of Trustees and its committees, as shown below, was approved with the stipulation that Trustees must receive meeting materials and information no less than seven days prior to each regular Board meeting. The Secretary of the Board was directed to implement a schedule for materials’ submission to ensure that such deadlines are honored.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, July 30, 2012	Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Monday, Sept. 10, 2012	Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Monday, Oct. 22, 2012	Wednesday, October 31, 2012
Monday, Dec. 3, 2012	Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Tuesday , Jan. 22, 2013	Wednesday, January 30, 2013
Monday, March 11, 2013	Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Monday, April 29, 2013	Wednesday, May 8, 2013
Monday, June 10, 2013	Wednesday, June 19, 2013

New Business

1. Approved Purchase for more than \$350,000

- An award to MesoCoat, Inc. for components of a high power density coating system. The total cost of this purchase is \$470,000, and MesoCoat, Inc. is the sole source supplier. MesoCoat, Inc. and the University are the co-recipients of a grant from ODOD, and the capital portion of the funds, which was awarded to the University, will provide the funding for the purchase.

2. Mutual Aid Agreements

Trustees approved two separate Mutual Aid Agreements between The University of Akron and area safety forces to provide for mutual assistance and interchange and the use of police resources. One agreement is between the University and the city of Orrville. The other involves the University and the cities of Akron, Barberton and Cuyahoga Falls; Metro SWAT; the county of Summit; and the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Notes

1. President's Report

I began my report by summarizing a recent meeting that Governor Kasich held with university presidents. A new and innovative approach to allocating capital dollars was discussed, and the Governor pledged to allocate approximately \$400 million for capital projects at universities and community colleges. The state will not provide funding for community capital projects this year. Two topics discussed at length during the governor's recent visit to campus, educational attainment and commercialization of university technology, continue to be prominent.

Noting that the Board's Strategic Issues Committee would recommend endorsement of Vision 2020, I thanked those who served on the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as Trustees, the entire University and the general community for providing input on the plan during approximately the last two years. I added that the roots of Vision 2020 are considerably longer than that because the foundation of Vision 2020 was laid throughout the course of the last 12 years. During that time, the University built one achievement upon another, including—a growing enrollment; the comprehensive physical transformation of our campus; an enhanced and nearly tripled research portfolio; record levels of endowments and fund raising; and a network of collaborative partnerships called the Akron Model that is fast emerging as a national model. Quoting the axiom, “the surest indicator of future performance is past performance,” I said that the Vision 2020 document is a bold plan based on accomplishments to implement that strategic vision.

I reported that the 2011 Northeast Ohio Talent Dividend Annual Report from the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, copies of which were provided to the Board, includes a feature on optimizing college student academic success written by Dr. Sherman. I also recommended a presentation on that subject by Dr. Chand Midha. His presentation is prominently displayed on the NOCHE [Talent Dividend Web site](#).

I told the Board that, since its last meeting, the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to

determine the safety and reliability of medical devices made with biomaterials. It is the first such agreement made with an independent organization with regard to biomaterials. During the prior week, ABIA hosted a small delegation of Milwaukee's academic, business and civic leaders, who visited Akron to learn more about the ABIA and the reciprocal relationship the University is trying build with that city, and to learn about the collaboration that brought ABIA into being. Also during that week, ABIA announced the creation of its first spinout company, APTO Orthopaedics, a medical device company.

Turning to another major initiative, I reported that the University's corrosion engineering program enjoyed a recent success. Dr. Homero Castaneda-Lopez, assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and his research team were awarded more than \$1 million from the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico to study and assess that country's pipeline corrosion issues during the next three years. I mentioned that the new engineering facility on Wolf Ledges Parkway, a portion of which will house the National Center for Education and Research in Corrosion and Materials Reliability, already received an occupancy permit on December 14, one day ahead of schedule.

I thanked members of the Board who were able to attend fall commencement ceremonies on December 10, when more than 1,300 graduate and undergraduate degrees were conferred. The University's alumni now total more than 155,000.

I congratulated Chief Paul Callahan, who is a finalist for *Campus Safety* magazine's national Director of the Year Award. The winner will be announced in April.

In closing, I announced that, on February 7, The University of Akron Forum lecture series will feature a presentation by Mr. Pogue—not Board Vice Chair Pogue, but his son David, a New York Times technology columnist, best-selling author and Emmy-winning CBS News correspondent. David Pogue is a talented speaker with the ability to communicate in lay terms the power of technology in today's society. Vice Chair Pogue would be introducing his son that evening.

2. Provost's Report

Dr. Sherman began by saying he would comment on student academic success, enrollment and the University's distinction.

Student Academic Success

Through the University's involvement in the Talent Dividend Prize, which is an initiative of CEOs for Cities, funds were made available to award \$550 scholarships to a number of individuals who most likely would not have enrolled in spring semester due to financial need. Dr. Sherman added that, in most cases, this assistance helped to keep recipients on track for graduation either this spring or summer.

Dr. Sherman reported on successful outreach efforts to students who have earned 150 or more credit hours through targeted advising to assure progress toward degree completion. At the fall commencement ceremonies in December, 246 of those students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. He thanked Associate Provost Karla Mugler for making that initiative so successful.

Enrollment

Dr. Sherman said that, previously, students on academic probation at other institutions were admitted to The University of Akron as transfer students. In an effort to facilitate student success, the University changed some admittance practices for spring 2012. As a result, 50 students who requested transfer admission while on academic probation were deferred and provided with information on how to improve their academic performance first. Dr. Sherman said that interactions with those students will continue in order to identify pathways leading to a degree program at The University of Akron.

In response to questions from Mrs. Brennan and Mr. Woolford, Dr. Sherman said that deferred students receive individual advice on how to improve from academic probation either at their current institutions or through other academic opportunities. He said data indicate that probationary transfers have a very low likelihood of completing a degree program. That is why the University is working with those individuals to optimize their academic success. Consideration is given to performance patterns from high school as well as from other institutions. Dr. Sherman added that recent changes resulted in 70 additional qualified students being admitted as transfers for this spring compared to last spring.

Dr. Sherman reminded the Board of last autumn's interaction with the deans asking for their outreach support of student persistence from fall to spring semesters. He reported that, because persistence in Summit College and in College of Business Administration graduate programs are below expectations, he will have further interactions with those deans to identify the reasons and develop action plans to address them. Dr. Sherman said that the remaining colleges are expected to have enrollment at or slightly ahead of projections.

Dr. Sherman reported that, compared to this time last year, applications for fall have increased by 6 percent, and 22 percent more students with ACT scores of 25 or higher have been admitted. He cited the Board's endorsement of increased scholarships beginning this fiscal year and the redistribution of scholarships within the program for creating the anticipated higher yield of better-prepared students. He said that the scholarship-distribution strategy is being reviewed to optimize the yield of better-prepared applicants to the University.

In regard to the University's Pathways Initiative for students who do not enroll at The University of Akron as their first step in college but who may find their way here, Dr. Sherman said that he is working with Associate Provost Bill Kraus to specifically craft and design the nature of our interactions with those students and our sister institutions to optimize a seamless transitional process.

Distinction

Dr. Sherman highlighted the following two recent examples of distinction:

- The [2011 Talent Dividend Annual Report](#), published by the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, featured the University prominently and highlighted the protocols for student academic success that have been discussed and implemented for the coming year.

- The University's rate of program growth in the state-funded [eTutoring](#) collaborative—which provides free online tutoring in areas such as mathematics, calculus, statistics and writing to any Ohio college student—is about to be recognized by the University System of Ohio. Not only is the University using internal resources to support student success, it also is pointing out and encouraging students to use resources provided by the state of Ohio to help facilitate their success.

Finally, Dr. Sherman referred to the proposed appointment of Mr. Neil Sapienza as interim dean of Wayne College. Dr. Sherman reported that very positive consultations had taken place with the faculty and staff of Wayne College, as well as with community leaders including district superintendents, chairs of chambers of commerce, mayors and others. Mr. Sapienza was introduced to the Wayne College Advisory Committee at its meeting the previous week. Dr. Sherman noted that the Board would be updated on plans to recognize the 40th anniversary of Wayne College sometime during this year.

3. Next Regular Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 in the Student Union, Board Room 339, with an executive session to begin at 7:30 or 8 a.m. and the public session to begin no earlier than 10 a.m. Committee meetings will be held on Monday, March 5, with a planned starting time of 7:30 or 8 a.m.

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